

Shaw Trial Judge Fired Off Bench

From News Dispatches

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 23—The judge who presided at the conspiracy trial of Clay Shaw, accused in a plot to murder President John F. Kennedy, today was removed from the bench for heavy drinking, gambling and consorting with underworld figures.

The Louisiana Supreme Court voted 6-to-1 to remove Judge Edward Haggerty Jr. from his Criminal District Court position.

The ruling said Haggerty engaged in "willfull and intentional" misconduct which brought disgrace on the judiciary.

The white-haired Haggerty, 57, was arrested last Dec. 17 at a motel stag party with 13 others. He was charged with conspiracy to commit obscenity, soliciting for prostitution and resisting arrest.

The Louisiana Judiciary

Commission recommended Haggerty's dismissal even though the judge was acquitted of the charges in a non-jury trial by fellow Judge Matthew S. Braniff.

Still Judge to Lawyer

Robert Zibilich, Haggerty's attorney, said that as far as he was concerned, Haggerty is still a judge on the Criminal Court and would remain so until all legal remedies are exhausted.

Zibilich said he has 14 days to file for a rehearing and could possibly have the case transferred to federal court.

A police informer who attended the Dec. 17 stag party testified at Haggerty's trial that the judge escorted three women to the gathering, in addition to a quantity of allegedly obscene movies.

In its recommendation to the high court, the Judiciary

Commission said Haggerty's off-the-bench conduct was "so seriously delinquent as to bring disgrace and discredit upon the judicial office and a loss of public respect and confidence in his ability to perform his official duties impartially and conscientiously."

Called Patron of Bookies

The commission said Haggerty regularly consorted with known bookies and placed bets with them.

It also said the judge played poker on a regular basis with lawyers who appeared in his court and consistently won large sums of money from them.

Haggerty argued that there was no indication any off-bench activity ever affected his behavior on the bench. Chief Judge Joe B. Hamiter, who cast the dissenting vote, said, "while I do not and can-

not approve or condone the alleged illegal and, perhaps, immoral conduct of Judge Haggerty, I do not find that it has interfered in any manner with his handling of the dockets and cases" under his jurisdiction.

Seen on Television

The news media had been alerted to the raid on the stag party and New Orleans television viewers were able to see Haggerty struggling with police, a battle which ended with the judge's wrists handcuffed behind his back. The struggle broke out when Haggerty attempted to leave the room where the party was in progress.

Haggerty received national publicity as judge in District Attorney Jim Garrison's prosecution of Shaw on charges of plotting the death of President John F. Kennedy.